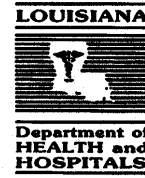




M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

May 12, 2003



David W. Hood
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

To: Parish Superintendents of Education
Parish Special Education Directors

From: David W. Hood *DWH*
Secretary

Subject: Services Under Part C of IDEA

Last year Governor Foster asked the Department of Health and Hospitals to become the lead agency for "ChildNet," or Part C of IDEA effective July 1, 2003. DHH accepted this tremendous challenge, knowing that success ultimately depends on the support and continued participation of local education agencies (LEAs). Indeed, Louisiana children and their families need and deserve all the resources we can garner for a quality early intervention system.

To this end, I want to reinforce the message you have received from Ms. Linda Pippins of our Office of Public Health: *DHH supports the continued use of the Minimum Foundation Program funds by LEAs for special instruction for infants and toddlers.* We have made no proposal to access these funds and do not intend to do so. In fact, we believe the current arrangement to be the optimal one to assure the quality of special instruction services and trust that we can depend on you, as the leaders in your school districts, to continue in the provision of these and other early intervention services.

I also want to thank you for your participation in the Part C "Time and Cost Study" which is assisting us to establish equitable and reasonable rates for the reimbursement of services. As soon as the study is completed, the results will be shared with you.

If you have any questions about the transition process or your role in the system, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Linda Pippins, Program Manager for Children's Special Health Services, at (504) 568-5055. Ms. Pippins is overseeing implementation of the Part C program within our Office of Public Health and is available to any questions you may have.

Again, I look forward to a spirit of collaboration between our agencies as we partner to assure that every child in Louisiana will meet his/her full potential in life.

c: Cecil Picard
Virginia Beridon
John LaCour
Maddie McAndrew
Linda Pippins

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